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Senate

The Senate met at 9:30 a.m. and was called to order by the Honorable RAND PAUL, a Senator from the Commonwealth of Kentucky.

PRAYER

The Chaplain, Dr. Barry C. Black, offered the following prayer:

Let us pray.

O Lord, our rock, hear our praise today, for Your faithfulness endures to all generations. You hear our prayers and surround us with Your mercy. You are our strength and our shield. Listen to the melody of our gratitude, for You are the center of our joy.

Lord, thank You for illuminating our paths with Your precepts, dispelling the darkness of doubt and fear. Today, guide our lawmakers. Be their shepherd in these dangerous times. Give them eyes to see that You have not left Yourself without a witness in every living thing. Help them, Lord, to walk with reverence and sensitivity through all the days of their lives.

We pray in Your Holy Name. Amen.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The Presiding Officer led the Pledge of Allegiance, as follows:

I pledge allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America, and to the Republic for which it stands, one nation under God, indivisible, with liberty and justice for all.

APPOINTMENT OF ACTING PRESIDENT PRO TEMPORE

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will please read a communication to the Senate from the President pro tempore (Mr. HATCH).

The legislative clerk read the following letter:

U.S. SENATE,
PRESIDENT PRO TEMPORE,
Washington, DC, May 20, 2015.

To the Senate:

Under the provisions of rule I, paragraph 3, of the Standing Rules of the Senate, I hereby

appoint the Honorable RAND PAUL, a Senator from the Commonwealth of Kentucky, to perform the duties of the Chair.

ORRIN G. HATCH,
President pro tempore.

Mr. PAUL thereupon assumed the Chair as Acting President pro tempore.

RECOGNITION OF THE MAJORITY LEADER

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The majority leader is recognized.

JUSTICE FOR VICTIMS OF TRAFFICKING ACT

Mr. MCCONNELL. Mr. President, yesterday's House passage of the Justice for Victims of Trafficking Act represents a vital ray of hope for the countless victims of modern slavery who need our help. Victims groups and advocates tell us that this human rights legislation would provide unprecedented support to domestic victims of trafficking. They urged Congress to pass it.

We can now say that we have passed it. We can now say that hope is on the way for the victims who suffer in the shadows. Unfortunately, the victims of modern-day slavery had to wait entirely too long for help.

Last Congress, the House of Representatives did its job by passing several pieces of legislation, but the Senate failed to bring any trafficking legislation to the floor.

As a new majority, Senate Republicans were determined to make this matter a priority. Senator GRASSLEY promptly reported legislation out of the Judiciary Committee, and we quickly put it on the Senate floor.

As we all know by now, there was an unforeseen—to put it mildly—impediment to getting this bill done. But we were determined to see this legislation through to successful completion. Success was possible because the new ma-

jority kept its focus on facts, substance, and good policy for the people who remained our focus throughout the debate, and that is the victims of modern slavery.

I could not be more grateful to Senator CORNYN for his outstanding work on this issue. I thank the House for passing such an important human rights bill yesterday. Now I urge the President to sign this legislation from the new Congress as quickly as possible. The victims of such terrible abuse have had to wait entirely too long for Washington's help. Let's not make them wait a moment longer.

TRADE

Mr. MCCONNELL. Mr. President, yesterday Senator WARNER, a Democrat, and Senator ERNST, a Republican, joined me in hosting a press conference with small business owners on the benefits of trade for entrepreneurs. I want to thank them both for coming. I thank Senator WARNER, in particular, for helping to lead his party on this issue.

We were joined by small business owners with some pretty incredible stories. These Americans highlighted opportunities that knocking down unfair overseas barriers to American products can provide to us here at home.

My favorite, obviously, was Chase Robbins, a constituent of mine from Shelbyville. After Chase was medically discharged from the Army, he was able to scrape together \$1,600 with a buddy and start the kind of business he had already dreamed of as early as 2010. It is a business that specializes in just the kind of thing you would expect a young guy such as Chase to be into—high-performance auto parts. And, thanks to trade, it is now both a business that exports a percentage of its products and one that also employs fellow Kentuckians.

His is a small business with just three employees for now—just three for

• This "bullet" symbol identifies statements or insertions which are not spoken by a Member of the Senate on the floor.



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